



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
2 SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two co-defendants were sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing firearms.

Kemel C. Oliver, 21, and **Marcus L. Smith**, 22, both of Kansas City, were sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning.

Oliver was sentenced to four years and seven months in federal prison without parole and **Smith** was sentenced to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On July 6, 2004, **Oliver** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Oliver** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol on July 3, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Oliver** has four 2003 criminal felony convictions for stealing by deceit, forgery, attempted stealing of a motor vehicle and fraudulent use of a credit device.

On June 24, 2004, **Smith** pleaded guilty to illegally receiving a firearm while under a felony indictment. By pleading guilty, Smith admitted that he illegally received a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on July 1, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person under felony indictment to possess any firearm or ammunition.

The co-defendants in this case were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 2, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow